



CITY OF HAYWARD

AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE 06/25/02

AGENDA ITEM 6

WORK SESSION ITEM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Chief of Police

SUBJECT: Public Safety Plan for July 4, 2002

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council review and comment on this report.

BACKGROUND:

On July 4th, 2001, sporadic neighborhood celebrations involving illegal fireworks generated calls for service that overwhelmed police resources and created hazardous fire conditions within the City of Hayward. During peak hours between 8 P.M. and 2 A.M. on July, 4th the Communications Center, which dispatches both police and fire, received in excess of 100 fireworks-related calls for service each hour. That situation resulted in numerous complaints of slow response times from members of the community.

All fireworks are illegal to sell or possess in the City of Hayward per Hayward Municipal Code Section 3-3.00. Projectile fireworks present a significant fire risk to building roofs and in wildland areas east of Mission boulevard. Other fireworks create an increased risk of medical emergencies resulting from burns, and hand and eye injuries. Street celebrations, and particularly those involving fireworks, pose an additional hazard for drivers, pedestrians, and police and fire vehicles responding to emergencies.

The availability of commercially sold fireworks outside the city, and related public safety problems experienced during the July 4th holiday in 2001 requires a formalized public safety plan for 2002 that addresses citywide resources, equipment, and prevention strategies.

This report is the result of a shared planning process involving both fire and police department personnel.

PUBLIC SAFETY RESPONSE:

Staffing:

Nine firefighters will be added to normal staffing. Three firefighters will be added to Station #8 at Five Canyons to staff the Type III engine used for wildland fires. Three additional pieces of wildland firefighting equipment will be staffed with two personnel each, and

deployed at Station #2 on Harder Rd., Station #5 on Hayward Blvd., and Station #9 on Second Street.

Six additional police officers will be used to staff three 2-person Fireworks Enforcement Cars. These cars will be deployed in high-complaint neighborhoods, and respond to all fireworks-related calls for service. Reserve officers will support these efforts, and maintain high-visibility patrols in high-complaint neighborhoods.

We plan to meet with members of the Alameda County Deputy District Attorney's Office to discuss handling of fireworks-related arrests, citations, and seizures. A streamlined documenting and reporting process will be established.

Policy & Protocol:

Dispatching protocol will direct all fireworks-related calls to Fireworks Enforcement Cars. Any fire department response to fireworks-related fire or injury investigations will also include a Fireworks Enforcement Car response. When possible, dispatch will obtain the name, location, and description of suspect in fireworks-related calls for service.

"Safe & Sane" fireworks legally purchased in another city, but illegal in Hayward require discretionary handling by educating the user and confiscation when necessary. A "zero tolerance" approach will be taken with illegal firecrackers and projectile fireworks such as bottle rockets. They will be immediately confiscated and citations and/or arrests will take place when necessary.

Education:

School Resource Officers will work with the Hayward Unified School District to distribute informational fliers to each student/parent in the district. The Hayward Neighborhood Alert News Letter will be used to provide fireworks prevention information to community members.

Partnerships:

Hayward Police have met with representatives of California State University Hayward Police to coordinate patrols of the hill areas, and with the Union City, Fremont, and Newark Police Departments to address the potential for mutual aid in other jurisdictions.

Media and Public Awareness Campaign:

We have posted signs advising that fireworks are not allowed in Hayward at strategic public locations within the City of Hayward and the Fairview Fire Protection district.

The Fire Department Spokesperson will coordinate public safety advertising in the local newspaper and on cable television stations, educating the public on the hazards of using fireworks in the City of Hayward.

CONCLUSION:

This is a citywide effort using prevention, intervention, and enforcement to protect Hayward neighborhoods from property damage and personal injuries associated with fireworks. These cooperative strategies will also allow police and fire department personnel to respond more effectively to emergencies within the city.

Hayward residents and residents of the Fairview Fire Protection District can thus observe the Independence Day Holiday in a safe and lawful manner.

Prepared by:

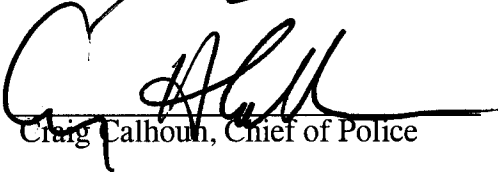


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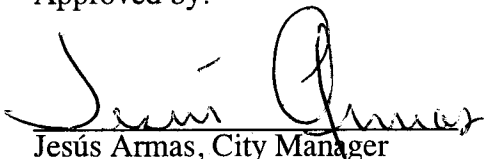


Larry Arfsten, Fire Chief



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Approved by:



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